

From: David M. Marshall <david.marshall.pgh@gmail.com>
To: tcastello <tcastello@aol.com>
Subject: Fwd: Public Meeting - Hearing for Superintendent Castagna
Date: Wed, Feb 20, 2019 11:52 am

David M. Marshall

Begin forwarded message:

From: janice gladden <jlgladden@comcast.net>
Date: August 2, 2018 at 2:12:33 PM EDT
To: erinwhite <erinwhite@comcast.net>, Dennis Cmar <CmarD@wmasd.org>, "Kostelnik, Debbie" <djkostelnik@gmail.com>, Gary Matta <gmatta@law-dmc.com>, "Marshall, David M." <david.marshall.pgh@gmail.com>, "Alexandroff, Nicholas" <njma41@yahoo.com>, "DiCenzo, Athony" <adicenzo@westmifflinborough.com>, "Andzelik, Judy" <jea8@verizon.net>, "Ahern, Judith" <leo72913@verizon.net>, vachmc46@gmail.com
Cc: Mark Hoover <HooverM@wmasd.org>, Joseph Dalfonso <jdalfonso@law-dmc.com>, Steven Toprani <stoprani@law-dmc.com>, John Cambest <jcambest@law-dmc.com>, Thomas Castello <tcastello@aol.com>, Krisha Dimascio <kdimascio@law-dmc.com>
Subject: RE: Public Meeting - Hearing for Superintendent Castagna
Reply-To: janice gladden <jlgladden@comcast.net>

Very sorry about your daughter. She and your wife remain in my prayers.

Thank you for the update. I hope Dr. Castagna's hearing is scheduled quickly. It is very unfortunate that this has dragged on so long. This borough deserves a fair resolution, our staff deserves focused leadership, and our children deserve to know that they are the priority.

I will make my requests to Mr. Castello.

On August 1, 2018 at 10:13 AM Gary Matta <gmatta@law-dmc.com> wrote:

First I apologize for not responding earlier, however my Daughter was taken to the hospital on Monday and I was addressing her health issues.

To bring you up to date, the hearing officer is scheduling a call with my office and Dr. Castagna's attorney to determine new dates; we hope this is done soon. Additionally, because this matter is now in a formal 1080 proceeding, if any information is requested by Board Members, it should be done so through the Hearing Officer. At this point, my office should not be discussing this issue with the board, nor will we be sharing with the Board, or individual Board members, any of the documents or evidence that may be presented at the hearing.

While we take serious our role as District Solicitor to keep the Board updated on legal matters, we cannot have contact with the Board regarding the 1080 hearing. As a reminder, the Board should not have any contact with Dr. Castagna outside of the hearing itself. This is important to ensure a fair process for the District and Dr. Castagna and is in line with the quasi-judicial role that the Board will be required to perform. This is also particularly important given the pending federal action.

While we cannot share additional information at this point, please know that we are working with the Hearing Officer and Dr. Castagna's counsel to reschedule this matter.

G

GARY J. MATTA
ATTORNEY AT LAW



DODARO, MATTA
& CAMBEST, P.C.

Southpointe Town Center
1900 Main Street, Suite 207
Cannonburg, PA 15317
Office: 412-243-1600 | Cell: 412-965-6151

From: erinwhite [mailto:erinwhite@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 1, 2018 9:51 AM
To: janice gladden <jlgladden@comcast.net>; Dennis Cmar <CmarD@wmasd.org>; Gary Matta <gmatta@law-dmc.com>; Kostelnik, Debbie <djkostelnik@gmail.com>; Marshall, David M. <david.marshall.pgh@gmail.com>; Alexandroff, Nicholas <njma41@yahoo.com>; DiCenzo, Anthony <adicenzo@westmifflinborough.com>; Andzelik, Judy <jea8@verizon.net>; Ahern, Judith <leo72913@verizon.net>; vachmc46@gmail.com
Cc: Mark Hoover <HooverM@wmasd.org>
Subject: RE: Public Meeting - Hearing for Superintendent Castagna

Ms. Gladden,

I do not have the ability to withhold anything from anyone. Even if I did, I wouldn't do so. It was done numerous times to me, and I was even asked to vote and decide on an employee's life altering fate of income.

I do not want any transcripts from the Hart lawsuit. It has been settled and I have enough paperwork from the past almost 5 years.

Personally, I have NEVER seen any of the information you are requesting. So you are wrong again!

I do, however, feel very sorry for you.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: janice gladden <jlgladden@comcast.net>

Date: 8/1/18 6:11 AM (GMT-05:00)

To: Dennis Cmar <CmarD@wmasd.org>, erinwhite <erinwhite@comcast.net>, Gary Matta <gmatta@law-dmc.com>, "Kostelnik, Debbie" <djkostelnik@gmail.com>, "Marshall, David M." <david.marshall.pgh@gmail.com>, "Alexandroff, Nicholas" <njma41@yahoo.com>, "DiCenzo, Anthony" <adicenzo@westmifflinborough.com>, "Andzelik, Judy" <jea8@verizon.net>, "Ahern, Judith" <leo72913@verizon.net>, vachmc46@gmail.com

Cc: Mark Hoover <HooverM@wmasd.org>

Subject: RE: Public Meeting - Hearing for Superintendent Castagna

I agree, Erin! It's unbelievable that I should have to ask for information we all should have received months ago or upon its receipt, and more unbelievable that I still haven't received it! But most unbelievable, Erin, is that I'm sure that you have seen it all, but want to withhold it from me! What's up with that?

On July 30, 2018 at 7:48 PM erinwhite <erinwhite@comcast.net> wrote:

Unbelievable

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: janice gladden <jlgladden@comcast.net>

Date: 7/30/18 12:10 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: Dennis Cmar <CmarD@wmasd.org>, "O'Leary White, Erin" <erinwhite@comcast.net>, Gary Matta <gmatta@law-dmc.com>, "Kostelnik, Debbie" <djkostelnik@gmail.com>, "Marshall, David M." <david.marshall.pgh@gmail.com>, "Alexandroff, Nicholas" <njma41@yahoo.com>, "DiCenzo, Athony" <adicenzo@westmifflinborough.com>, "Andzelik, Judy" <jea8@verizon.net>, "Ahern, Judith" <leo72913@verizon.net>, vachmc46@gmail.com

Cc: Mark Hoover <HooverM@wmasd.org>

Subject: RE: Public Meeting - Hearing for Superintendent Castagna

Gary and Dave:

Yes, it's me again! Once again, I am requesting information regarding Dr. Castagna's hearing. Have you set a new date? If not, please let us know what is the hold up.

If you have, please provide the date, as well as copies of the formal notice to Dr. Castagna, and the notice to be published in the Post Gazette.

On July 24, I requested other documents, stated below, that have not been provided. I am now adding to this list, a request for Dr. Castagna's lawsuit, the transcript from the Laudermill hearing held July 2, and a copy of all depositions from the Hart lawsuit. I am also requesting a clarification on the information provided to me verbally by Mr. Cmar, regarding Dr. Castagna's pay and annuity. Is Dr. Castagna owed money? Has he received payments since his attorney's letter regarding this matter? If your original decision still stands, please provide the policies that support that decision.

I truly hope that you will respond to my requests, which I submit as an elected official on this Board that is charged to decide in this matter. If you are not willing to provide this information, please explain the reason. It is no longer acceptable for you to act in a way that implies that formation will be provided or withheld as you see fit.

On July 24, 2018 at 1:25 PM janice gladden <jlgladden@comcast.net> wrote:

Mr. Matta:

In addition to sending the Board a copy of the letter sent to Dr. Castagna scheduling the upcoming public hearing, please also send the Pre-termination hearing notice mentioned in paragraph 2 of your letter to Dave Marshall, and Dr. Castagna's contract. I am requesting these documents be sent to us now, since we have not received them despite prior requests, and so that we have an opportunity to review them in preparation for next week's hearing.

If you are unable or unwilling to provide these documents to the Board of Directors, please explain why. Thank you.

On July 23, 2018 at 4:37 PM Gary Matta <gmatta@law-dmc.com> wrote:

Mrs. Gladden

Please find attached a copy of a letter that each Board Member will be receiving.

Your questions should be answered by the Hearing Officer Mr. Thomas Castello his contact information is in the attached letter.

Thanks G

From: janice gladden [<mailto:jlgladden@comcast.net>]
Sent: Monday, July 23, 2018 4:19 PM
To: O'Leary White, Erin <erinwhite@comcast.net>; Dennis Cmar <CmarD@wmasd.org>; Kostelnik, Debbie <djkostelnik@gmail.com>; Marshall, David M. <david_marshall_pgh@gmail.com>; Alexandroff, Nicholas <njma41@yahoo.com>; Ahern, Judith <leo72913@verizon.net>; Andzelik, Judy <jea8@verizon.net>; DiCenzo, Athony <adicenzo@westmifflinborough.com>; vachmc46@gmail.com
Cc: Mark Hoover <HooverM@wmasd.org>; Gary Matta <gmatta@law-dmc.com>
Subject: Re: Public Meeting - Hearing for Superintendent Castagna

Gary: Please provide the format for this meeting. The wording of the notice implies we will be able to ask questions to obtain the information & evidence we need to make a decision. Is that a correct interpretation. Even if not, I believe we should be able to ask questions of witnesses, as it is important for us to ensure the charges you filed are fully vetted.

On July 23, 2018 at 3:42 PM Dennis Cmar <CmarD@wmasd.org> wrote:

Please note below a copy of the advertisement that will appear in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette at their earliest publication date. Board Members will also receive a letter in the mail providing notification of the meeting.

Dennis Cmar

**NOTICE OF HEARING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION
10-1080, 24 P.S. § 10-1080, OF THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC
SCHOOL CODE OF 1949, AS AMENDED, BY THE WEST
MIFFLIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF SCHOOL
DIRECTORS**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of School Directors of the West Mifflin Area School District will hold a Public Meeting on **Monday, July 30, 2018; Tuesday, July 31, 2018 and Wednesday, August 1, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.** at the West Mifflin Area Middle School Auditorium, located at 81 Commonwealth Avenue, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, 15122. The Board of School Directors will consider the removal of the District Superintendent in accordance with Section 10-1080, 24 P.S. §10-1080, of the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949, as amended. The Hearing will be conducted in public session as requested by the District Superintendent. This advertisement serves as official notice that the Board of School Directors may take any action or vote relevant to the hearing or the position of Superintendent on any of the dates listed above.

This e-mail communication (and any attachment/s) may contain confidential or privileged information and is intended only for the individual(s) or entity named above and to others who have been specifically authorized to receive it. If you are not the intended recipient, please do not read, copy, use or disclose the contents of this communication to others. Please notify the sender that you have received this e-mail in error by reply e-mail, and delete the e-mail subsequently. Please note that in order to protect the security of our information a security device is in use to scan both incoming and outgoing emails for inappropriate or unlawful use.

From: David M. Marshall <david.marshall.pgh@gmail.com>
To: tcastello <tcastello@aol.com>
Subject: Fwd: Castagna 1080 Hearing
Date: Wed, Feb 20, 2019 11:51 am

David M. Marshall

Begin forwarded message:

From: erinwhite <erinwhite@comcast.net>
Date: July 22, 2018 at 10:39:39 AM EDT
To: janice gladden <jlgladden@comcast.net>, "Gary J. Matta" <gmatta@law-dmc.com>, David Marshall <david.marshall.pgh@gmail.com>, Tony DiCenzo <adicenzo@westmifflinborough.com>, Debbie Kostelnik <djkostelnik@gmail.com>, nicholas alexandroff <njma41@yahoo.com>, Steve Kovach <vachmc46@gmail.com>, Judy Andzelik <jea8@verizon.net>, Judy Ahern <leo72913@verizon.net>
Cc: Mark Hoover <HooverM@wmasd.org>, Dennis Cmar <CmarD@wmasd.org>
Subject: Re: Castagna 1080 Hearing

Myself, I have not heard any different. I know Denny was out last week but is suppose to be back tomorrow. I would think a copy of the Advertisement will be e-mailed and mailed to us then.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: janice gladden <jlgladden@comcast.net>
Date: 7/21/18 10:01 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: "Gary J. Matta" <gmatta@law-dmc.com>, David Marshall <david.marshall.pgh@gmail.com>, Tony DiCenzo <adicenzo@westmifflinborough.com>, Debbie Kostelnik <djkostelnik@gmail.com>, erinwhite <erinwhite@comcast.net>, nicholas alexandroff <njma41@yahoo.com>, Steve Kovach <vachmc46@gmail.com>, Judy Andzelik <jea8@verizon.net>, Judy Ahern <leo72913@verizon.net>
Subject: Castagna 1080 Hearing

Yesterday, I was approached at Giant Eagle by a WM resident who asked if it was true that a public hearing for Dr. Castagna was happening on July 30. This was the 2nd time I've been asked about this. Of course, I had no answer. Please let us know if, indeed, this hearing has been scheduled. If this is not the case, where are you regarding scheduling this hearing?

From: David M. Marshall <david.marshall.pgh@gmail.com>
To: tcastello <tcastello@aol.com>
Subject: Fwd: Castagna 1080 Hearin
Date: Wed, Feb 20, 2019 11:50 am

David M. Marshall

Begin forwarded message:

From: Gary Matta <gmatta@law-dmc.com>
Date: August 21, 2018 at 1:33:41 PM EDT
To: Dennis Cmar <CmarD@wmasd.org>, Mark Hoover <HooverM@wmasd.org>, David Marshall <david.marshall.pgh@gmail.com>
Cc: John Cambest <jcambest@law-dmc.com>
Subject: Castagna 1080 Hearin

Denny

Please notify the entire Board of the agreed and approved hearing dates. They are August 29th September 6 and 10.

Also please make these changes to the District website. The dates that are currently on the District website had been suggested dates that had not been approved and agreed to.

Thanks

Gary J. Matta, Esquire

Southpointe Town Center
1900 Main Street
Cannonsburg, PA

Office (412) 243-1600

From: David M. Marshall <david.marshall.pgh@gmail.com>

To: tcastello <tcastello@aol.com>

Subject: Fwd: Evidentiary Rulings

Date: Wed, Feb 20, 2019 11:50 am

Attachments: West Mifflin SD - Castagna.docx (26K)

David M. Marshall

Begin forwarded message:

From: Thomas Castello <tcastello@aol.com>

Date: October 7, 2018 at 9:42:34 PM EDT

To: david.marshall.pgh@gmail.com, adicenzo@westmifflinborough.com, erinwhite@comcast.net, jlgadden@comcast.net, vachmc46@gmail.com, djkostelnik@gmail.com, leo72913@verizon.net, njma41@yahoo.com, jea8@verizon.net

Subject: Evidentiary Rulings

Directors:

Attached are the 3 evidentiary ruling to date including the two most recent regarding discovery and the admission of the audio tape. If you have any questions, you can contact or we can discuss Tuesday evening.

Tom

From: David M. Marshall <david.marshall.pgh@gmail.com>
 To: tcastello <tcastello@aol.com>
 Subject: Fwd: Castagna Lawsuit and 1080 Hearing
 Date: Wed, Feb 20, 2019 11:49 am

David M. Marshall

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dennis Cmar <CmarD@wmasd.org>
 Date: October 15, 2018 at 4:53:55 PM EDT
 To: "David M. Marshall" <david.marshall.pgh@gmail.com>
 Cc: janice gladden <jlgadden@comcast.net>, "Ahern, Judith" <leo72913@verizon.net>, "Alexandroff, Nicholas" <nima41@yahoo.com>, "Andzelik, Judy" <jea8@verizon.net>, "DiCenzo, Athony" <adicenzo@westmifflinborough.com>, "Kostelnik, Debbie" <djkostelnik@gmail.com>, "vachmc46@gmail.com" <vachmc46@gmail.com>, "O'Leary White, Erin" <erinwhite@comcast.net>, Mark Hoover <HooverM@wmasd.org>, Gary Matta <gmatta@law-dmc.com>, Krisha Dimascio <kdimascio@law-dmc.com>
 Subject: RE: Castagna Lawsuit and 1080 Hearing

You are welcome.

From: David M. Marshall [mailto:david.marshall.pgh@gmail.com]
 Sent: Monday, October 15, 2018 4:24 PM
 To: Dennis Cmar <CmarD@wmasd.org>
 Cc: janice gladden <jlgadden@comcast.net>; Ahern, Judith <leo72913@verizon.net>; Alexandroff, Nicholas <nima41@yahoo.com>; Andzelik, Judy <jea8@verizon.net>; DiCenzo, Athony <adicenzo@westmifflinborough.com>; Kostelnik, Debbie <djkostelnik@gmail.com>; vachmc46@gmail.com; O'Leary White, Erin <erinwhite@comcast.net>; Mark Hoover <HooverM@wmasd.org>; Gary Matta <gmatta@law-dmc.com>; Krisha Dimascio <kdimascio@law-dmc.com>
 Subject: Re: Castagna Lawsuit and 1080 Hearing

That sounds reasonable. Thank you

David M. Marshall

On Oct 15, 2018, at 4:21 PM, Dennis Cmar <CmarD@wmasd.org> wrote:

The district has received "litigation hold" letters several times over the years. The letters tell the administration to not destroy pertinent records. Since only the administration keeps the official records, these "hold letters" are given only to those employees that have access to the official records. School Board Members do not receive the letters because Board Members do not keep the official records. There have been no records destroyed or purged since receipt of the "hold letter."

Dennis Cmar

From: janice gladden [mailto:jlgadden@comcast.net]
 Sent: Monday, October 15, 2018 3:46 PM
 To: Dennis Cmar <CmarD@wmasd.org>; Ahern, Judith <leo72913@verizon.net>; Alexandroff, Nicholas <nima41@yahoo.com>; Andzelik, Judy <jea8@verizon.net>; DiCenzo, Athony <adicenzo@westmifflinborough.com>; Kostelnik, Debbie <djkostelnik@gmail.com>; vachmc46@gmail.com; Marshall, David M. <david.marshall.pgh@gmail.com>; O'Leary White, Erin <erinwhite@comcast.net>
 Cc: Mark Hoover <HooverM@wmasd.org>; Gary Matta <gmatta@law-dmc.com>; Krisha Dimascio <kdimascio@law-dmc.com>

Subject: Re: Castagna Lawsuit and 1080 Hearing

While I appreciate receiving this letter, I am very concerned that it only now being shared with the Board, almost 2 months after the date of the letter. Recent objections and statements made in the Castagna 1080 hearings, and in the September 27, 2018 public School Board meeting, regarding withholding and destruction of these public records have concerned me a great deal. There is no question of the importance & relevance of these records for our deliberations, that must be based on all available evidence. Please explain who made the decision to withhold this letter until now.

On October 12, 2018 at 9:48 AM Dennis Cmar <CmarD@wnasd.org> wrote:

Attached please find the Litigation Hold letter provided by the insurance company for the lawsuit. Also be advised that Dr. Castagna's attorney has issued a Litigation Hold for the Hearing.

Dennis Cmar

This e-mail communication (and any attachment/s) may contain confidential or privileged information and is intended only for the individual(s) or entity named above and to others who have been specifically authorized to receive it. If you are not the intended recipient, please do not read, copy, use or disclose the contents of this communication to others. Please notify the sender that you have received this e-mail in error by reply e-mail, and delete the e-mail subsequently. Please note that in order to protect the security of our information a security device is in use to scan both incoming and outgoing emails for inappropriate or unlawful use.

This e-mail communication (and any attachment/s) may contain confidential or privileged information and is intended only for the individual(s) or entity named above and to others who have been specifically authorized to receive it. If you are not the intended recipient, please do not read, copy, use or disclose the contents of this communication to others. Please notify the sender that you have received this e-mail in error by reply e-mail, and delete the e-mail subsequently. Please note that in order to protect the security of our information a security device is in use to scan both incoming and outgoing emails for inappropriate or unlawful use.

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From: David M. Marshall <david.marshall.pgh@gmail.com>
To: tcastello <tcastello@aol.com>
Subject: Fwd: Request for Update on Status of Castagna 1080 Hearing
Date: Wed, Feb 20, 2019 11:40 am

David M. Marshall

Begin forwarded message:

From: janice gladden <jlgladen@comcast.net>
Date: February 7, 2019 at 1:48:34 PM EST
To: Thomas Castello <tcastello@aol.com>, david.marshall.pgh@gmail.com, adicenzo@westmifflinborough.com, erinwhite@comcast.net, djkostelnik@gmail.com, leo72913@verizon.net, njma41@yahoo.com, vachmc46@gmail.com, jea8@verizon.net
Subject: Request for Update on Status of Castagna 1080 Hearing
Reply-To: janice gladden <jlgladen@comcast.net>

Please pardon the previous incomplete message. My phone is acting finicky. I want to ask the status of the Castagna 1080 hearing. December 23 was the last time I received anything from Mr. Castello, and the closing arguments were due January 4. I have not received all of the transcripts. I am very concerned about a delay to this extent, especially with no explanation to the full Board. Please provide a timeline for completion of this matter. Thank you.

On February 7, 2019 at 1:28 PM janice gladden <jlgladen@comcast.net> wrote:

Hello all. Can we please receive an update on the status of the

On December 23, 2018 at 8:50 PM Thomas Castello <tcastello@aol.com> wrote:

the last of 3 for tonite. have fun